

**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

<b>SUN 12 September</b>	<b>+24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	6.00pm Vigil 8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 12.30pm 2:15pm	For the people of the parish For the people of the parish Imelda Murphy, RIP Stanley Corda, Anniv Fred Maguire, RIP Polish Mass
<b>MON 13 September</b>	St John Chrysostom, Bishop & doctor	8.30am 12.00noon	Judith Bogie, Anniv James Neary, RIP
<b>TUES 14 September</b>	<b>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	8.30am 12noon	Anne Bevan, RIP Fr Alex Balzanella 1st Anniversary priestly ordination
<b>WED 15 September</b>	Our Lady of Sorrows	12noon	Margaret O'Connor
<b>THUR 16 September</b>	Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	12noon	Peter Elliott, RIP
<b>FRI 17 September</b>	feria	6:00pm	Teresa Kyeyune, RIP
<b>SAT 18 September</b>	feria	11.00am 6.00pm Vigil	Pauline Coleman, RIP Bishop Paul McAleenan, Intentions
<b>SUN 19 September</b>	<b>+25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8am 9.30am 11am 12.30pm 2:15pm	For the people of the parish Hannah O'Gorman, RIP Cecelia Finn, Intentions Joseph Anthony, Anniv Polish Mass

**HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER- An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle-** We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

**MAKING CONTACT AT HOLY ROOD**

Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest:	Fr Gerard O'Brien	<a href="mailto:gerardobrien@rcdow.org.uk">gerardobrien@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 3)
Assistant Priest:	Fr Alex Balzanella	<a href="mailto:alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk">alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 4)
Deacon:	Rev Neville Dyckhoff	<a href="mailto:neilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk">neilledyckhoff@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 5)
Parish Office:		<a href="mailto:watford@rcdow.org.uk">watford@rcdow.org.uk</a>	(☎)Opt 2)

**Address: Holy Rood Rectory, Exchange Road, Watford. WD18 0PJ. (01923) 224085**

website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/>

**Other Parish Contacts:** Safeguarding Representatives: Aitana Mateo

[watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) and Emma Daniels – [watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:watfordsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Important new app:** <https://www.hestia.org/brightsk>

**Hospital Chaplain:** Deacon Anthony 07876 526935 or emailing: [anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anthonycurran@rcdow.org.uk)

**SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021  
24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday cycle**

**Readings**

*Year B*

**Weekday**

**Readings**

*Year 1*

**Psalms**

*Week 4*

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross– Our Parish Feast day**

This coming Tuesday (14 September) our parish celebrates its feast day, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, since our Church's name of Holy Rood is an old-English term for the Holy Cross. It may seem strange or bizarre that we, as Catholics, have a feast day in which we celebrate the instrument used to kill Jesus Christ. It was by the crucifix that the second person of God, in human form, suffered the most agonising death. We may be asking ourselves isn't the celebration of such a thing rather gross or macabre?

Whilst the cross is undoubtedly a symbol of Christ's torture on Good Friday it is, more importantly, a symbol of his resurrection on Easter Sunday. By freely accepting death on a cross, Christ paid the debt of our sins, and as a result conquered death. The cross is used by Christ as the key to open up heaven to us, to give us the opportunity to be part of the perfect bliss of God. We hang crosses of Jesus crucified in our homes, our churches and around our necks to both remember the great suffering he endured but also the great victory that such suffering won for us.

The exaltation of the cross also reminds us that God knows what it is to suffer. In our lives we may feel great pain and suffering, whether physical, mental or social. This feast reminds us that in such suffering God is with us, helping us carry the struggles we face. Our continuation in such difficulty also gives us the opportunity to share in the carrying the Lord's cross too. We can be assured that abundant graces are poured out on those who, in spite of troubles, maintain their faith, hope and love for God and their neighbour.

The pandemic has meant that the opportunity for the usual celebration on the feast day has not been possible, however if you can do come to Mass on the Feast of the Holy Cross (8.30am and 12noon), visit our Lord in exposition (between 9am and 11.30am) or else just pop in to say a prayer of thanksgiving to God at some point during the day. Thanks to the Holy Cross mankind is redeemed, and for such a great act of love our hearts should overflow with gratitude. Fr Alex.

**Holy Rood  
Catholic Church, Watford**

## THANK YOU!

I WAS IMMENSELY TOUCHED BY YOUR HEARTFELT EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS FOR MY MINISTRY IN HOLY ROOD, AND OF LOVE FROM THE DAY OF MY APPOINTMENT TO ST LAWRENCE PARISH FELTHAM, THE LEAVING CARDS AND GENEROUS GIFTS YOU GAVE. THE ATTENDANCE AT THE THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL MASS SPOKE SO MUCH ABOUT THE LOVE GIVEN AND RECEIVED. IT WAS ONLY IN THE LAST MONTH THAT IT BECAME CLEARER TO ME HOW MUCH LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED! FOR ALL THESE, I AM DEEPLY AND SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO GOD, TO FR GERARD, DEACON NEVILLE AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF HOLY ROOD PARISHIONERS. IT WAS NOT JUST ME SERVING YOU AS BEST AS I COULD AS YOUR PRIEST, BUT YOU TOO INSPIRED AND SUPPORTED ME TREMENDOUSLY. THANK YOU ALL AND BE ASSURED OF MY PRAYERS FOR YOU. GOD BLESS. **FR JOSEPH OKORO**

**FR ALEX** - We continue to welcome him to Holy Rood Parish and ask God's blessing on his ministry to serve the Lord and this parish. Please pray for him and in an extra special way this week as he celebrates his first anniversary to the priesthood on Sunday 19 September. As his ordination card reminds us..... **'But now in Christ, you who were once far off, have been bought near in the Blood of Christ.'** *Ephesians. 2:13.* Congratulations Fr Alex.

**ALTAR SERVING & MUSIC MINISTRY** - We hope to recommence this Autumn. If you are able to assist, please speak to and email Fr Alex, alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk who will take the lead in these ministries.

**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** - Tuesdays at 9am—11.30am and Fridays at 6.30pm-7.30pm.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - On Fridays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 11:30am & 5pm - 5:30pm. Or contact Fr Gerard or Fr Alex.

**MINISTRIES & PLANNING AHEAD** - Can all those who may be able to assist in the following ministries, please email the parish office with complete and up-to-date contact details and the ministry you may be able to help with and usual Mass attended - Church cleaners, Altar servers, volunteers for Altar linen and Albs, welcomers, readers, catechists, extraordinary ministers of the Holy Eucharist, etc. This exercise is also vital in assisting our safeguarding team who are updating all DBS checks.

**BAPTISM ENQUIRIES** - Please contact Deacon Neville on **01923 224085 OPTION 5** or email [nevilleedychhoff@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:nevilleedychhoff@rcdow.org.uk)

**MASS INTENTIONS** - Occasionally some dates have to be moved to another date. Please supply a contact number when booking a Mass.

**New Benches** - Whilst checking some of the old church chairs recently, I discovered chewing gum under all of them. This is a great offence to the sacredness of our church and generally a horrible thing to do. I surmise that is must have been visitors over the years who, who didn't quite understand appropriate behaviour. Let us spread the word that this is not acceptable. In fact, no one should even enter a church chewing gum or eating / drinking. Let us, together, keep our beautiful church, beautiful. Fr Gerard.

**CHILDREN & TOILETS** - Parents / Guardians please do not let your children go to the toilet unsupervised. The back door to Percy Road is open during Masses.

**DISABLED ACCESS** - If you need to use the side door in Percy Road please contact Fr Gerard.

**LIFE ISSUE** - Diana Johnson MP has decided not to take her amendment (NC55), that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth, to a vote. Similarly, Rupa Huq MP has decided not to take her amendment (NC42), that would have introduced a jail sentence of up to 2 years for offering support to women outside abortion clinics nationwide, to a vote. This is an amazing victory. Our prayers are answered.

**HOLY ROOD WALKER'S GROUP** - Are you be interested in taking part in country walks around Hertfordshire and occasionally further afield? The walks will vary but usually be medium-difficulty, between 5 - 7 miles long, take place on Saturday and last 3-4 hours with a picnic lunch. Full details of the walk will be provided in advance and transport arranged. Individuals (and families) of all ages are welcome. The only requirement is that you are fit enough to complete the distance and ready to have fun! It also offers an ideal opportunity to meet other parishioners from the parish. If you are interested, please contact Paul Montgomery on 07887 726061 or [paulmonty@ntlworld.com](mailto:paulmonty@ntlworld.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Laura Whooley & Sean Sugrue who were married here in July.

**PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH** - Dear St Joseph accept the offering I make to you. Be my father, protector and guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me purity of heart and a love for the spiritual life and let all my actions be directed to the greater glory of God.

**FUNERALS** - Information about how to prepare for a Catholic funeral will be circulated soon. In the meantime, please share this information with family and friends. Music must always be Christian and in keeping with Catholic teaching. Readings must be from sacred scripture. No poems or popular music. A eulogy is not necessary but if one is to be read, should be short and appropriate to for a church setting and Requiem Mass. The priests will be able to guide in these difficult situations.

**LIVESTREAMED MASS** - You can access our livestreamed Mass by going to YouTube website. And in the search space type Holy Rood Watford livestream and click on the picture with 'LIVE' on it. **The following Masses/liturgy are livestreamed. All Sunday Masses. Friday Mass, 6pm, including Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 7.30pm. And any special services as required.**

**COVID 19** - We continue to be responsible for protecting ourselves and those we encounter for the common good. We continue to use face masks hand gel when we enter the church. Percy Road door will be opened at the weekends. Please use Market Street and Percy Road doors to enter and exit church. The church can now remain open in the day for private prayer. This has been a wonderful tradition in this parish. Church cleaning will continue. Help needed - please contact the office.

**HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS** needed to support the work of the Watford hospital chaplaincy. If you would be willing to offer an hour or two a week to visit patients in hospital or would like more information please email: [westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net](mailto:westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net)

**SVP - SEPTEMBER AWARENESS MONTH** - During the month of September, the SVP will be providing tea and coffee (with cakes and soft drinks for children) after the 9.30am and 11.00am Sunday Mass on the 12, 19 and 26 September. We hope, weather permitting, to use the parish hall courtyard. This is to raise awareness of the SVP and its work in the parish and the wider community (including overseas), supporting families and individuals, with befriending and practical help to those in need.

**HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL**—has now been restored to a usable chapel and prayer space. Mass was celebrated in it last week. It really is a beautiful chapel. Take a look at the beautiful art work.

**REPOSITORY**—As you can see it now at back of church. The stock is being addressed but in the meantime please let parish office know if you have helped out can help after the Masses to open it.

## Catechism Corner

*Who can receive Communion?* *It is first a matter of understanding the meaning of Holy Communion. Catholics believe that when we receive Holy Communion, we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We are united with Jesus. We anticipate our union with God in heaven and is a sign of the unity we live in the Church. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the first Christians were characterised by their fidelity to teaching of the apostles,, fellowship, and the breaking of bread and prayer. Understanding these elements, will enable us to have some insight into who can receive Communion at Mass....to be continued*

## THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

*is sponsored this week for  
Malcolm Atkins RIP*

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Hannah Cohen, Lena Joyce, Peter Byrne, Rose McGurk, Soosiapillai Santhanasamy, Grazia Mariconda, Giuseppi Micciche, Aidan Murphy, Pauline Franchalia, William Lennon

## ANNIVERSARIES

Stanley Corda, Judith Brogie, Dermot Cribben.

**May they rest in peace.**